

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                             |   |                      |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| In re Application of:       | ) |                      |
|                             | : | Examiner: R. Zhu     |
| TOHRU IKEDA                 | ) |                      |
|                             | : | Group Art Unit: 2625 |
| Application No.: 10/764,524 | ) |                      |
|                             | : |                      |
| Filed: January 27, 2004     | ) |                      |
|                             | : |                      |
| For: IMAGE PROCESSING       | ) |                      |
| METHOD                      | : | January 16, 2009     |

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination of the above-identified application, for which a Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently herewith, and in response to the final Office Action dated October 16, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows: